

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2955
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2003
PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS IN STATES
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some States Governments have failed to hold the Panchayat elections in time;
- (b) if so, the name of the States and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the action taken by the Government so far in this regard;
- (d) whether these States have refunded the Central fund which was allocated to them for holding panchayats elections; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal have failed to hold Panchayat Elections in time. In the case of Arunachal Pradesh, the State sought exemption from the Constitutional provision of making reservations for Scheduled Castes as the State had no indigenous people. The Arunachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act consequently was passed in May, 2001 following due process of law. The State Government has indicated that the process for the holding of elections in the State has been initiated. In respect of Uttaranchal, the State was carved out of the State of Uttar Pradesh in 2000. The State has now indicated that elections are being held in March, 2003. The State of Jharkhand, a newly created State, has been facing disputes regarding percentage of seats reserved for Tribal People in Scheduled V Areas of the State.
- (c) The Chief Ministers of these States and Ministers incharge of Panchayati Raj and concerned Secretaries in the States are being urged from time to time to hold Panchayat Elections.
- (d)&(e) No Central funds are released for holding of Panchayat elections. As no funds have been released, the question of refund does not arise.